GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:601
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
ONGC MOU WITH RUSSIAN INSTITUTE OF MINING
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed a MoU with Russian Institute of Mining for technical collaboration to turn coal into gas;

(b) if so, the details of agreement and to what extent Government has been able to implement agreement;

(c) whether the gas could be available from coal in Mehsana-Ahmedabad block and Patan Tharad block;

(d) if so, whether ONGC has already completed its preliminary work on this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) : Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have signed an Agreement of Collaboration (AOC) with the Skochinsky Institute of Mining-National Mining Research Centre (SIM-NMRC), Moscow, on 25.11.2004 for Underground Coal Gasification(UCG).

(b)&(c): The AOC envisages cooperation in the following areas:

- Sharing technical know-how and technologies related to UCG.
- Development and application of expertise in UCG technologies.
- Establishing technical feasibility through field demonstrations for different geological, hydrological and environmental conditions.
- Establishing the commercial feasibility of the process through a pilot.

The AOC having been signed, the areas for undertaking UCG pilots would be firmed up in consultation with the SIM-NMRC. Mehsana-Ahemadabad Block and Patan Tharad Block are both probable locations for the pilot project.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.